

In-Migrants in War Housing Projects
Newark, N. J., 1946

At the beginning of 1946, 150 in-migrant families living in war housing projects were interviewed with the object of obtaining information about their backgrounds, employment, housing, and future plans, that might be useful to the Housing Authority in its future program.

These interviews were carried out by sociology students of Rutgers University, Newark College, and were supervised by the Research Division of the Housing Authority. The Housing Authority is grateful to these students for their assistance in this investigation. Before the interviews were undertaken the Research Division drew up a questionnaire which was used by the students in their interviews.

The families interviewed were from three housing projects for war-workers, Hyatt, Bradley and Fuld. The latter is occupied one-half by low-income families and one-half by in-migrant war-workers. The families interviewed from Fuld were in the latter group.

Not all of the 150 families gave complete information on each question. The information obtained is summarized below:

1. WHEN DID THEY ARRIVE?

Of the 142 families who reported the date of their coming to the Newark area, the greatest number came in 1941 and 1942. The following table shows the years in which they arrived.

Before 1941	14
1941	39
1942	52
1943	15
1944	12
1945	9
1946	1
	<u>142</u>

This pattern bears out the findings in the study of "Migrant War Workers in Newark", that the migration of war-workers climbed steadily from the outbreak of the war and reached its peak in 1942, after which a decline began.

2. WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

The 146 families which reported this information came from 10 states, as follows:

Pennsylvania	71
New York	35
New Jersey	31
California	2
Massachusetts	2
Florida	1
Illinois	1
Tennessee	1
West Virginia	1
	<u>146</u>

As we found in the previously mentioned investigation, the bulk of the in-migrants came from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York.

Of these families 4 came from farms

57	"	"	towns
84	"	"	cities
<u>146</u>			

3. DID THEY INTEND TO STAY IN NEWARK?

Asked about their future plans we found that:

136 families planned to remain in Newark

105 in the project
31 elsewhere

11 families planned to leave Newark
147

3

10

1

1

5. WHAT WAS THE RENT OR VALUE OF THEIR HOMES?

17 of those who had owned their homes reported on its value as follows:

Below \$2000	2
\$2000 to 4000	2
\$4000 to 6000	6
\$6000 to 8000	5
\$8000 & over	2
	<u>17</u>

Those who rented their homes reported their monthly rent as follows:

\$10 to \$20	19
\$20 to 30	36
\$30 to 40	22
\$40 to 50	13
\$50 to 60	8
\$60 to 70	4
\$70 to 80	1
	<u>101</u>

6. HOW MANY WAGE-EARNERS WERE THERE?

Of the 145 families reporting the number of wage-earners.

115 had 1 full time worker

7 " 2 " " workers

6 " 1 " " and 1 part time worker

2 " 2 " " " 1 " " "

3 " 0 " " " 1 " " "

13 " 0 wage-earners because:

4 were unemployed

7 " in the Service

1 was on strike

1 " a widow receiving state aid

Of 143 main wage-earners who gave their occupations, 18 had not changed in their occupation since migrating to Newark. Sixty-eight however, had changed their occupations since VJ day. Only three individuals had changed from clerical to war-work and seven from professional to war-work.

7. WHAT WERE THEIR JOB EXPECTATIONS?

The job expectations of the main wage-earners were as follows:

67 expected to remain on present job
5 " " be laid off
2 " " " called back
16 said their jobs were not permanent
11 expected to change jobs
1 owned his own business

102

8. WHAT HAPPENED TO THEIR INCOMES SINCE VJ DAY?

To the question,

"Has your family's income changed since VJ day?", the following replies were received:

31 No.
103 Yes
7 Unemployed
138

Of those whose income had changed 12 had higher incomes and 91 had lower incomes. The percentage change in incomes follows:

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Lower</u>
Under 30 %	5	38
30 % to 60 %	1 *	38
60 % & over		5
% not given	<u>6</u> 12	<u>10</u> 91

* over army pay

9. WHAT HAPPENED TO WORKING WIVES?

Of these wives who had worked before WJ days:

6 were still working

39 had stopped "

1 was looking for work
46

10. WHAT SOURCE OF INCOME DID THE UNEMPLOYED HAVE?

In those families where there was no one working the source of income was:

7 Unemployment compensation

3 Allotment

2 Savings

1 N. J. State Board of Childrens Guardians

1 Wouldn't say
14

11. SOME COMPLAINTS ABOUT THEIR PRESENT HOMES.

Most of the families liked their homes, but a number had complaints. Below are listed some of these objections in the order of their frequency:

Odors and dirt (especially from Hyatt Court)

Bad Neighborhood (from Hyatt & Fuld Courts)

Dampness

Noisy

Inadequate shopping facilities (especially from Hyatt Court)

Overcrowded

Congested

Rent too high

Lack of recreation facilities

Inadequate heat

Rooms small

Infrequent painting and decorating

The answers to several of the questions asked were inadequate for tabulation. A copy of the questionnaire used in the interviews is attached.

Interviewer _____

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name _____ Address _____ Project _____
2. No. in household _____ 3. No. of workers, full time _____, part time _____
4. No. of veterans in household _____; expected to remain, temporarily _____, permanent _____
5. No. in service _____; No. expected to return to live with family _____
6. When did family come to this area? Month _____ Year _____
7. Where from? _____ Farm _____ Town _____ City _____
8. Occupations of main wage earners before migrating _____

Add'l information _____

B. PREVIOUS HOUSING

9. Previous Housing; type _____ rented _____ no. rental _____
or _____ or _____
owned _____ value _____
10. How did it compare with present housing? Better _____ Same _____ Worse _____
- Comments: _____
11. What do you think of your present housing and neighborhood? _____

C. EMPLOYMENT STATUS

12. Describe employment status and job of each wage earner.

Relationship to family head	Occupation before VJ	Occupation after VJ	Salary change(%)	Job Expectations

13. Has wife work before VJ day? Is she still working? _____, looking for
work _____, stopped working, temporarily _____, permanently _____

14. If wife is working or looking for work, how long does she plan to continue working? _____

15. Has family weekly income changed since VJ? (% change) More _____ Less _____ Same _____

16. If no workers, what are the sources of income? _____

D. FUTURE PLANS

17. Does your family plan to remain in the Newark area? In project _____
Elsewhere _____
18. If family is planning to leave this area, where do they intend to settle? _____
Why there? _____
19. If family is planning to leave the project do they intend to rent _____ or
buy _____ a home?
20. What monthly rental do they plan to pay? _____ Or, what price home are they in the market for? _____

IN-MIGRANTS IN WAR
HOUSING PROJECTS

Housing Authority of the City of Newark
New Jersey
1946

In-Migrants in War Housing Projects
Newark, N. J. 1948

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As we found in the previously mentioned investigation, the bulk of the in-migrants came from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York.

Of these families 4 came from farms

57	"	"	towns
54	"	"	cities
146			

3. DID THEY INTEND TO STAY IN NEWARK?

Asked about their future plans we found that:

136 families planned to remain in Newark

106 in the project
31 elsewhere

$\frac{11}{147}$ families planned to leave Newark

This means that only 7.5% intend to leave the Newark area. Of those who plan to stay in this area, more than three quarters intend to stay in the project, and 23% intend to leave the project.

Of those families planning to leave the project:

16 wanted to rent homes, most of them at rentals around \$40 and \$45.

14 wanted to buy homes ranging from \$2,000 to \$8,000, but most of them around \$7,000.

4. WHAT KIND OF HOMES HAD THEY LIVED IN?

142 families reported on their previous housing as follows:

38	had lived in rented 1 family houses
40	" " " " 2 " "
8	" " " " 3 or more family houses
28	" " " " apartments
4	" " " hotels or furnished rooms
20	" owned their own 1 family house
2	" " " " 2 " "
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In comparing their present housing with the homes they had come from

64	said their previous housing had been better
43	" " " " " " worse
32	" " " " " " the same

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